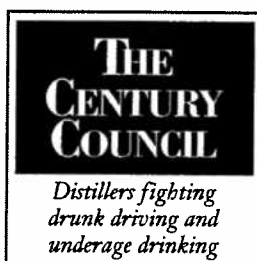


Ralph S. Blackman
President & CEO



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June 27, 2007

The Honorable Paul Condino
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Condino:

National Advisory Board

Patrick B. Harr, M.D.
*Former Chairman of the Board of Directors,
American Academy of Family Physicians*

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
Former North Dakota Attorney General

Lisa Graham Keegan, CEO
*CEO, Western Academy of Virtual Education
Former Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Arizona*

Robert L. King
*President & CEO
Arizona Community Foundation
Former Chancellor
State University of New York*

The Honorable Philip D. Lang
*Chairman, National Alcohol Beverage
Control Association (NABCA)*

The Honorable Togo D. West, Jr.
Former Secretary of the Army

Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal
*Chief (Ret.) Colorado State Patrol
Former Vice President of IACP*

Anthony E. Wolf, PhD.
Clinical Psychologist and Best Selling Author

On behalf of The Century Council, I am writing to urge your support for H.B. 4920 and H.B. 4921, which would target hardcore drunk drivers and help protect Michigan's roadways.

The Century Council was founded in 1991 and is a national not-for-profit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. Funded by Bacardi U.S.A., Inc., Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Inc., DIAGEO, Future Brands, LLC, Hood River Distillers, Inc., and Sidney Frank Importing Co. Inc, the Council is dedicated to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking. To date, we have hosted nearly 2,200 events to launch our programs in communities across the nation bringing them to millions of parents, youth, educators, law enforcement officials and traffic safety professionals.

Through the years, The Century Council has worked extensively throughout the nation on anti-drunk driving and underage drinking efforts. Responding to a growing body of research that points to repeat offenders and hardcore drunk drivers as the source of a large and disproportionate share of highway crashes, in 1997 the Council created The National Hardcore Drunk Driver Project. The Project serves as a single, comprehensive resource to assist state legislators as well as highway safety officials, law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, community activists and treatment professionals in developing programs to reduce hardcore drunk driving.

At the national level, The Century Council supports MADD's *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving* and the Council along with AAA and the National Transportation Safety Board have formed *The Coalition to Fight Hardcore Drunk Driving* to support state legislative proposals to enact comprehensive and effective solutions to the hardcore drunk driving problem.

Recognizing over 15 years in the fight against alcohol abuse

Hardcore drunk drivers are those who drive with a high blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .15 or above, who do so repeatedly, as demonstrated by having more than one drunk driving arrest, and who are highly resistant to changing their behavior despite previous sanctions, treatment or education efforts.

Crash data shows that drivers with a BAC of .15 are 385 times more likely to be involved in a crash than a non-drinking driver. In Michigan, 54 percent of drivers involved in alcohol-related fatalities in 2005 were high BAC drivers. Hardcore drunk drivers are the most significant area where the state can increase its efforts to reduce alcohol-related fatalities.

The Century Council strongly supports the sanction of ignition interlock devices for hardcore offenders and for offenders who continually refuse to submit to a BAC test and defers to judicial discretion for first-time/non-hardcore offenders. The Council also favors tiered systems that allow for more severe penalties, treatment, and aftercare for hardcore drunk drivers.

The Century Council believes laws designed to provide a comprehensive system that facilitates the swift identification; certain punishment and effective treatment of hardcore offenders should be a legislative priority. Such laws combined with comprehensive and well-balanced enforcement and education efforts will enhance each community's work to reduce hardcore drunk driving. We support H.B. 4920 and H.B. 4921 which would create escalated penalties for repeat DUI offenders and for those drivers that have a BAC of .15 and above.

We urge the swift passage of these pieces of legislation that will ultimately save lives. The Century Council stands ready to assist you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Blackman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Ralph Blackman
President & CEO